संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) भारत में डाक सेवाओं का सुविस्तृत नेटवर्क है, जिसमें 1,52,000 से अधिक डाकघर हैं। ये डाकघर डाक-प्राप्ति और डाक-वितरण के अलावा अन्य डाक सेवायें भी प्रदान करते हैं। ऐसे विस्तृत नेटवर्क में कुछ स्थानों पर पत्रों तथा तारों के वितरण में विलंब हो ही जाता है, किन्तु कुल मिलाकर, यह सेवा सामान्य ढंग से कार्य कर रही है।

(ख) डाक विभाग ने 1986 में स्पीड पोस्ट नामक एक एक्सप्रेस सेवा शुरू की थी। यह सेवा बहुत प्रभावी और लोकप्रिय साबित हुई है। एक महानगर से दूसरे महानगर में वितरित किए जाने के लिए भेजे गए साधारण पत्रों का 48 घंटे के भीतर वितरण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 2 अप्रैल, 1994 से एक तेज गति का चैनल शुरू किया गया है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत दिल्ली, बम्बई, कलकत्ता, मद्रास, हैदराबाद तथा बेंगलूर शहर शामिल हैं। दिल्ली तथा अन्य राज्यों की राजधानियों के बीच एक ऐसी ही तेज गति की सेवा जल्दबाद ढंग से शुरू करने का प्रस्ताव है। समूचे देश में डाक-वितरण की नियमित पुनरीक्षा तथा मोनिटरिंग पद्धति शुरू की गई है, तथा जहां कहीं कोई कमी पाई जाती है, उसे दूर करने के लिए सुधारात्मक कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(ग) उपर्युक्त (ख) में दिए गए उत्तर को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Postal Metro Channel

* 520. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will" the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new metro channel is being introduced by the Department of Posts to arrest the erosion in speed and reliability of the postal delivery system which has suffered in recent years;

(b) whether inter-metro letters are the most significant segments of mail, both in terms of quantity and the sensitivity,

(c) if so, what are the details of the proposed scheme;

(d) which are the States that will be covered under tike scheme which has been in operation since *2nd* April. 1994;

(e) to what extent the objectives of the scheme have been achieved; and

(f) by when this scheme is likely to be introduced all over the countrv?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM: (a) The new metro channel has been introduced for expeditious transmission and delivery of inter-metro ordinary letters.

(b) While all articles of letter mail are required to be handled expeditiously, priority treatment is being given to such mail from and to selected cities having regard to volume as well as economic importance in general.

(c) The scheme envisages expeditious transmission and delivery within 48 hours of PIN Coded first class letter mail posted in one Metro city for another metro city. Such mails will be separated at the stage of initial handling and then exclusively sorted and despatched.

(d) The cities covered under this scheme are Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Bangalore.

(e) On introduction of the scheme, transmission time of inter-metro mails has improved.

(0 Similar scheme from national capital to State capitals and vice-versa maybe introduced in due course.

PCOs with STD Facilitines in Tamil Nads

5363. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred question 1387 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th December, 1993 and state:

(a) period-wise break up of the pending cases and the details of the oldest cases pending; and

(b) what steps have been taken for pursuing them and for expeditious disposal in the last three months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The Number of pending

applications for STD/PCO year-wise is as under:

1990-91—NIL

1991-92—NIL

1992-93— NIL

1993-94—3451 (as on 31-3-94).

No records are maintained in respect of oldest pending cases separately.

(b) STD/PCO allotment Committees are being convened as frequently as possible to consider the pending applications for allotment of STD/PCOs.

Coat free telephones in hospitals in Arunachal Pradesh

5364 SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cost-free telephones provided in the hospitals of Arunachal Pradesh district-wise; and

(b) the number of such cost-free telephones illegally possessed by officers in their residence giving the district-wise; details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir. the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working hours in Postal Soh-divisioss

5365 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many postal sub-divisions are there in India;

(b) what are the working hours of the office of sub-divisional inspector or Assistant Superintendent in sub-divisions;

(c) whether it is a fact that each sub-divisional inspector. Assistant Superintendent is having a work-load of more than 15 hours; and

(d) if not, how much work-load, maximum minimum is there with the Sub-Division ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM):(a) 1797 (One thousand seven hundred ninety seven).

(b) The office of a sub-divisional Inspector/ ASP is a one-man office—the official having predominently touring duties, as he is required to spend on an average, more than 100 days on tour per annum. As such, no fixed office tunings are observed—the official being treated more in the nature of a call duty staff.

(c) No Sir.

(d) the justification for the posts of Sub Divisional Inspectors/ASPOs is worked out on the basis of a formula evolved after a proper work study in consultation with the staff Inspec-tion Unit of the Ministry of Finance. A fraction of 0.5 and above is rounded off to the next integer. This is an ongoing process and the justification is reviewed periodically.

Payment of real etc for siagle-handed post offices

5366. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that entire amount of rent electricity and sweeping chargs in respect of single handed post offices is paid by the department but consolidated amounts for 'A', *B* and 'C cities are paid as compensation and the rest of the amount has to be paid by the incumbents:

(b) if so, why such discrimination and why the Department is not hiring a building for the office of these sub-divisions as is done in the case of other post office buildings;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Staff Associations of Postal Inspectors are taking up the matter of providing departmental accommodation or pay the entire rent, electricity Charges etc but the Government are not taking any action; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such inaction?